

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Claims 65 and 68, and claims dependent thereon, stand rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph, as being indefinite for lacking antecedent basis for the "chamber" limitation. The first occurrence of this limitation in each of these claims has been changed from "the" to "a" to overcome this rejection, and it is submitted that this change is not an amendment that has been made for reasons relating to patentability.

Claims 65-70 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kamikawa. Claims 71-72 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kamikawa in combination with Schild. Certain claims have been amended, and applicant traverses the Examiner's rejection.

Claim 65 has been amended to recite "carrying out a first processing step to remove conductive material from the workpiece in the lower section of the chamber." As the Kamikawa reference relates only to cleaning a workpiece, claim 65, and the claims dependent thereon, contain allowable subject matter. These dependent claims include claims that further recite the type of processing in the lower chamber (such as 66, and new claims 73-74) as well as claims that further recite the type of processing in the upper chamber (such as 67 and new claims 75-76).

Claim 68 has not been amended for reasons related to patentability, as it recites first operating in the upper chamber, and then operating in the lower chamber. Applicants respectfully submit that Kamikawa does not operate in this manner. In particular, the upper chamber for Kamikawa is used only for drying, and the lower chamber for cleaning using a liquid into which the object is immersed. Accordingly, there is not teaching --nor any reason or motivation to use -- Kamikawa in a manner that uses the upper chamber first. Accordingly, claim 68 contains allowable subject matter.

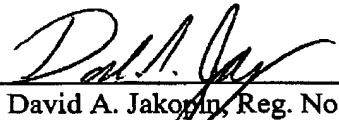
The dependent claims also contain allowable subject matter, including claim 69 and new claims 76-78 which recite the type of processing used in the lower chamber.

New claims 79-88 have also been added, and are believed to contain allowable subject matter.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully asserts that the above-referenced application is in a condition for allowance, and such a notice is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 03-3975 (Order No. 042496/0269289) for any fees associated with this communication.

Respectfully submitted,
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